E4. BOWYER BIBLE PRINT 4391. CHRIST HEALS THE BLIND BOURDON

Mark seems to be actually relying on somebody who was close to the original occurrences. Somebody who has not had vision before, or not seen for a long time - perhaps since he was a child - would make this sort of "daft" remark. There may nevertheless be a symbolic element: like the later healing of blind Bartimaeus, the miracle occurs just before an incident which unequivocally reveals Jesus as the Messiah. The healing of the blind, like that of the deaf and dumb, is a sign of the era of salvation (*Isaiah* 35:5).

They would have believed at that time that a deaf and dumb spirit was particularly difficult to heal because it could not hear you. In the healing of the epileptic boy (9:14-29) Jesus commands the spirit and it responds because he possesses a huge supernatural power. Jesus is saying that there is no formula for healing this kind of spirit: you have to pray. Jesus comes down from the mountain. He finds that his disciples are in a state of disarray because they simply have not got the faith to perform miracles. Perhaps this is an echo of when Moses went up the mountain, came back, and found that the children of Israel had deserted his God. Jesus reproached the people for their lack of faith in words modeled on *Deuteronomy* 32:5.